

- To the extent feasible and compatible with over-all planning policies and objectives, each school district's location and land use compatibility guidelines or preferences shall be incorporated into the city's land use planning and public facility design programs.

## **Solid Waste and Community Sanitation**

**E-30. OBJECTIVE:** Provide adequate solid waste facilities and services for the collection, transfer, recycling, and disposal of refuse.

**E-30-a. Policy:** Support programs and new techniques of solid waste disposal such as recycling, composting, and waste separation, to reduce the volume and toxicity of solid wastes that must be sent to landfill facilities.

**E-30-b. Policy:** Pursue programs to maintain conformance with AB 939, the Solid Waste Management Act of 1989, in order to comply with mandated diversion goals.

**E-30-c. Policy:** Expand community sanitation programs to provide neighborhood cleanup and nuisance abatement services throughout the metropolitan area including both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

**E-30-d. Policy:** Locate any private or public waste disposal facilities or transfer stations in a manner that waste transportation and processing is not detrimental to the public health, safety, welfare, and aesthetic well-being of the surrounding community.

**E-30-e. Policy:** Pursue the implementation of measures to eliminate illegal tire dumping.

## **F. OPEN SPACE/RECREATION ELEMENT**

### **Challenges**

"Open space" is one of the required elements for general plans under State Planning Law (California Government Code Section 65560). The general plan is required to inventory open space and recreational opportunities, and to address community needs for these activities and facilities. This element of the general plan update addresses open space for recreational activities (agricultural, mineral resource, and habitat open space is dealt with in the Resource Conservation Element; open space set-aside due to hazards is dealt with in the Safety Element; and landscaped open space used for buffer zones and streetscape enhancement is dealt with in the Urban Form Element).

Recreational amenities and attractive open spaces are crucial for maintaining an urban area's image and desirability, on a citywide scale as well as at a neighborhood level. The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area is a major urban center with a diverse population that includes a high proportion

of children. Therefore, numerous and varied forms of recreation are required to adequately serve this population. A wide range of recreational facilities and activities needs to be physically and financially accessible to people throughout the metropolitan area.

Aside from city facilities and programs, the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area offers the following recreational opportunities:

- Federal, state, county, and special district outdoor recreation areas.
- School playgrounds.
- Nonprofit and cultural organizations (e.g., Girls and Boys Clubs, Fresno Metropolitan Museum).
- Special districts (e.g., Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Calwa Park and Recreation District, Clovis Memorial District).
- Commercial recreation (two water parks and other amusement parks).
- On-site recreational open space that serves residential developments (provided for by General Plan Urban Form Element/Land Use policies and the Zoning Ordinance).

### **Direction**

This Open Space/Recreation Element provides general plan-level direction for the city on two main topic areas:

**1. Master Parks Plan.** This is the portion of the general plan which deals with city-owned, city-operated, and city-sponsored park facilities and recreation programs. The provision of neighborhood and community parks is guided and ensured by a specific planning and funding process directed toward meeting community needs by appropriate park siting and recreational programming. The Master Parks Plan defines various classes of park space and sets standards for the amount of park acreage that should be provided per thousand population.

**2. San Joaquin River Parkway Plan.** These general plan policies are intended to provide city support for the realization of a “super-regional” park in the riverbottom, created under the auspices of the San Joaquin River Conservancy with the cooperation of private and public agency stakeholders on both the Fresno and Madera County sides of the river.

### **Relationship to General Plan Goals**

Several of the 2025 General Plan Goals refer to the importance of open spaces and recreational opportunities for Fresno:

**Goal 1:** Enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Fresno and plan for the projected population within the moderately expanded Fresno urban boundary in a manner which will respect physical, environmental, fiscal, economic, and social issues.

**Goal 2:** Pursue coordinated regional planning with Fresno and Madera Counties and the City of Clovis.

- Goal 3: Preserve and revitalize neighborhoods, the downtown, and historic resources.
- Goal 7: Manage growth to balance Fresno's urban form while providing an adequate public service delivery system which is fairly and equitably financed.
- Goal 10: Provide quality open space, park and recreation facilities and programs to support the projected population.
- Goal 11: Protect, preserve, and enhance significant biological, archaeological, and paleontological resources and critical natural resources including, but not limited to, air, water, agricultural soils, mineral, plant, and wildlife resources.
- Goal 12: Develop urban design strategies to improve Fresno's visual image and enhance its form and function.
- Goal 13: Plan for a healthy business and diversified employment environment, and provide adequate timely services to ensure that Fresno is competitive in the marketplace.
- Goal 14: Protect and improve public health and safety.

### **Master Parks Plan**

**F-1. OBJECTIVE:** This general plan constitutes an update of the Master Parks Plan and will be used as a programmatic framework by the City of Fresno in order to ensure sufficient park facilities and to maintain a variety of meaningful and balanced recreational programs for residents for the upcoming 20-plus year planning horizon. This Master Parks Plan incorporates objectives, policies, open space land use designations, and trail alignments adopted in the land use and transportation topics of this general plan and in community and specific plans, ordinances, and resolutions of the City of Fresno.

**F-1-a. Policy:** The Master Parks Plan (and any subsequent implementation plan for parks and recreation) should have the following characteristics:

- it should meet the needs of the people of Fresno and make recreation more accessible to the public.
- it will be consistent with, and integrated into, regional, community, and specific plans.
- it should be simple to apply and attainable in the planning period with existing or projected funds.
- it should ensure that the city's parks and recreation is coordinated with other recreational opportunities, other recreation providers, and other public services (such as education and transportation).
- it should be amenable to revision as circumstances change.

**F-1-b. Policy:** Ensure that park and recreation planning is a continuous process, with a full review and evaluation of this master plan at least every ten years in order to consider changing priorities and conditions applicable to park acquisition, development, and operation.

- F-1-c. Policy:** There will continue to be meaningful opportunities for citizen participation in the planning and development of park facilities and in creation of social, cultural, and recreational activities in the community.
- F-1-d. Policy:** Provide for the continuing development of a public system to meet the community's needs for both active and passive recreation with an adequate supply of recreational space, an appropriate mix of park types, and an equitable distribution of these facilities.
- F-1-e. Policy:** Public park types are classified as follows and are to be developed according to the standards specified:

**Mini-Parks ("Pocket Parks").** Small parks, generally less than two acres, located near higher-density development. These parks fill a void when larger parks are not feasible and when adequate open space and recreational opportunities within nearby residential development projects are not provided. As a general rule, these small parks are best suited to providing landscaped, shaded areas for nonprogrammed passive enjoyment. However, flexibility should be allowed in planning mini-park facilities, to meet specialized and changing needs of neighborhoods (for instance, predominantly senior citizen neighborhoods may desire meeting places or gardening areas; other neighborhoods may need tot lots, or surfaced courts for teenagers to play ball). While mini-parks may serve smaller neighborhoods, their size makes them inefficient and more costly to maintain (per person served). While they provide some open space in urban areas, mini-parks cannot replace the larger neighborhood parks in providing a wide range of recreation activities.

**Neighborhood Parks.** Semi-active parks of five to ten acres, designed to serve residents living within a one mile radius of the site, or to serve between 10,000 and 15,000 residents. In addition to irrigated landscaping, typical improvements for neighborhood parks include softball/soccer fields, lighted tennis courts, lighted multi-purpose courts, tot lots, picnic areas, restrooms, equipment checkout rooms, and parking lots. Whenever possible, neighborhood parks are to be located adjacent to elementary schools, to facilitate cooperative arrangements. When sited next to schools, a minimum size of five acres is indicated for neighborhood parks. When not adjacent to school sites, neighborhood parks are developed as a "stand alone" park: a minimum site size of 7.5 acres is indicated, and "stand alone" parks should also include a multi-purpose room approximately 2,000 square feet in size.

**Community Parks.** These parks are ideally twenty acres in size. They are intended to serve residents living within a two to four mile radius, or to serve a population of between 50,000 and 80,000 residents. Community parks may have lighted sport fields and specialized equipment not found in neighborhood parks. The community park is the nucleus of the park system, where members of the community can congregate for

area-wide functions or programs. At the heart of the park is the community center building of 25,000 to 30,000 square feet, which may provide at least the following facilities and services:

- gymnasium (with showers and lockers).
- multi-purpose room.
- meeting rooms.
- senior activity center.
- administrative offices.
- snack bar and kitchen facilities.

**Regional Parks.** These parks are generally 100 or more acres in extent. They are developed to serve residents living within each quadrant of the city. This type of park serves a population of approximately 100,000 residents with active and passive recreational opportunities. In addition to facilities for various outdoor sports, regional park improvements may include picnic shelters, hiking trails, lakes, streams, public gardens, and other amenities not normally located in an urban setting. These parks are the only city recreational sites large enough to set aside wildlife habitat and offer nonprogrammed, nature-oriented recreational opportunities.

**The San Joaquin River Parkway.** This area is being developed into a "super-regional" park, serving not only the City, but residents of Fresno and Madera counties. Its unique recreational opportunities and ecological features also draw visitors from throughout the state. The parkway plan, discussed in detail in the Open Space/Recreation Element, encompasses developed recreational sites, interpretive and educational sites, and natural habitat areas. Intercalated with the public portions of the parkway is private land used for recreation, agriculture, surface mining (and processing of extracted minerals), and other approved existing uses.

**School Grounds/Playfields.** School sites comprise a large inventory of recreational open space areas which can provide recreational space for organized activities such as soccer, youth baseball, tennis, and other exercise, and gym uses. The playfield program operates through joint use agreements between the city and school districts which own the sites. The program currently offers programmed and non-programmed activities, primarily serving elementary school-aged children living within a one-half mile radius of the school.

**Ponding Basins.** Whenever feasible, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) provides opportunities for recreational open space through public use of storm drainage/groundwater recharge basins (see Table 7). Some basins are developed as park sites with play equipment; others have play fields, and still others are maintained as open turf areas.

**F-1-f. Policy:** The City of Fresno will continue to pursue implementation of an open space standard of 3.0 acres of public park land for every 1,000 persons residing in the city's planning area and will ensure the development of sufficient park land in areas designated for higher density. This park acreage standard includes the following components:

Neighborhood Parks	0.75 acres/1,000
Community Parks	0.25 acres/1,000
<u>Regional Parks</u>	<u>2.00 acres/1,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.00 acres/1,000</b>

**F-1-g. Policy:** The City will achieve its park space acreage standards by using the following matrix for allocating park space when land use plans are formulated:

PARK TYPE	SIZE RANGE (ACREAGE)	POPULATION SERVED	SERVICE AREA RADIUS
Schoolground/ playfield	1 - 2.5	3,000 - 5,000	¼ to ½ mile
Neighborhood	5 - 10	10,000 - 15,000	½ to 1 mile
Community	15 - 20	50,000 - 80,000	2 to 4 miles
Regional	100 +	100,000	30 minute drive

**F-1-h. Policy:** When land use plans are formulated and analyzed, recreational open space acreage will be inventoried separately from open space devoted to agricultural and aesthetic (e.g., landscape buffering) purposes.

**F-1-i. Policy:** Park sites shown on the land use map of this General Plan Update/Master Parks Plan shall serve as an overlay for community and specific plan land use maps. Additional parks and open space may be depicted as needed and appropriate in community and specific plans (e.g., in a specific plan or redevelopment plan), and in the San Joaquin River Parkway area. Additional park sites will be determined during preparation of required community plan and/or specific plan documents for the North Growth Area and Southeast Growth Area as depicted on the 2025 General Plan Update.

**F-1-j. Policy:** Locations for future park sites as shown on Exhibit 4 are schematic to the extent that park sites may be relocated as necessity and opportunity dictate; a park may be located on any suitable land in the general vicinity of the sites depicted. However, the plan designation and zoning of potential park sites must be made consistent with adopted land use plans by means of plan amendment and/or rezoning application. For those park sites not yet acquired by the city, the underlying land uses shown on Table 4 shall be applied.

**F-2. OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that adequate land, in appropriate locations, is designated and acquired for park and recreation uses prior to urban development.

**F-2-a. Policy:** Utilize the following priorities and guidelines in acquiring and developing parks and recreation facilities. These priorities and guidelines are intended to be used in the preparation of the city's annual capital improvement program. Scheduling of park projects may be influenced by changing financial conditions and limitations of particular funding sources. The priority list will be reevaluated at least every three years. Priorities may also be reorganized in consideration of community needs and the long-range financial ability of the city.

- Acquire and develop neighborhood park space in existing developed neighborhoods that are deficient of such space.
- Complete recreation facilities in existing neighborhoods.
- Improve existing neighborhood parks throughout the urban area.
- Acquisition and development of neighborhood parks in new growth areas shall continue to be funded by development fees, such as Urban Growth Management (UGM) program fees. When 95 percent of the target funding has been collected in a UGM park service area, all designated parks in that service area shall be built within two years, unless precluded by development restrictions.
- Recognize community parks as a special need in areas that lack these facilities and explore all potential sources of revenue (including the addition of community park funding to the Urban Growth Management program) to secure appropriate sites and develop these recreational facilities.
- Pursue the development of regional parks (combining both passive and active recreation uses) in southwest Fresno.
- Cooperate with Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and Fresno County to develop a regional park to serve the southeastern portion of the city.
- Develop new special purpose recreation facilities as needed.

**F-2-b. Policy:** The city will ensure that the Parks and Planning and Development Departments coordinate their review and approval of all development entitlements (i.e., site plans, conditional use permits, and subdivisions) in order to implement open space standards.

- The city will continue to require the provision of adequate recreational open space and facilities (e.g., easements or rights-of-way) as appropriate through mandatory dedication of land, requirements for improvements to land, and/or development fees, as a condition of approval or issuance of building permits for subdivisions and entitlements.
- When a site designated for a park is part of a subdivision map, the city may require the subdivider to provide for the park in the project's development plans (consistent with state law and city policies, standards, and specifications for that type of park).
- Where feasible and warranted, open space easements may be used to secure appropriate public use of sensitive areas with scenic or recreation values, and buffering space for sensitive areas.
- Wherever feasible, the city will encourage appropriate open space areas in private projects, in the form of trails, enhanced landscaped setbacks, parks, and water features (when the latter are developed as combined recharge and/or storm water runoff facilities).
- Where feasible and warranted, the City of Fresno will encourage the renewal of existing public and private spaces (such as rehabilitated landfills, parking lots, obsolete industrial buildings, surplus schools, etc.) for parks and recreation purposes, and will evaluate other underutilized parcels (such as abandoned railroad rights-of-way) for potential mini-park sites or landscaped public areas.
- Explore fee reductions/waivers and other permit processing incentives for development projects that allocate one percent or more of their project cost for recreational amenities on-site or in the vicinity of the project.
- Explore a bonus development entitlement program in which development incentives (i.e., bonus densities, bonus floor area square footage) would be provided for contributions to public recreational facilities on-site or in the vicinity of the development project.

**F-2-c. Policy:** The city will negotiate with Caltrans, other public agencies, and private property owners to develop remnant parcels along freeway corridors for appropriate recreational uses.

**F-3. OBJECTIVE:** The city will make every effort to ensure that park and recreational facilities make the most efficient use of land; that they are designed and managed to provide for convenience, health, safety, and pleasure of the intended users; and that they represent positive examples of design and energy conservation.

**F-3-a. Policy:** The location of park and recreation sites should be central and accessible to the population served, while preserving the integrity of the surrounding neighborhood.



**F-3-b. Policy:** Public open space should be linked to major activity centers through a series of landscaped linear walkways and bikeways that enhance and encourage pedestrian use.

**F-3-c. Policy:** Designated park and recreation sites should be protected from intrusive or incompatible uses.

**F-3-d. Policy:** In general, the city should not consider acquisition of park sites less than two acres in size for active recreational uses.

**F-3-e. Policy:** Ensure that city parks maximize visual and recreational value, and enhance accessibility for the public and for supervision of park sites.

**F-3-f. Policy:** Shade, water, comfort facilities, and art should be prominent design elements of current and future recreation facilities.

- Parks should be augmented by street trees and landscaped median strips in arterial roads.
- Public parks should include and promote points of attraction, which may include artwork, exhibit areas, and kiosks, representing diversified interests and themes.
- Promote the design of outdoor environments that attract people for activities through the creative use of landscape features, street furniture, signage, and lighting.
- Maintain standards under which the sale of food in parks may be allowed, including appropriate sites and guidelines for concessionaire food service.

**F-3-g. Policy:** Promote safety, attractiveness, and compatibility between parks and adjacent residential areas through proper design, adequate maintenance, and supervision to enforce park regulations.

- Provide adequate staffing during hours that the city's neighborhood, community, and regional parks are open; and consider after-hours supervision of city parks with measures that may include staffed remote monitoring equipment, on-site security personnel, and/or routine law enforcement patrols.
- Require the installation of security lighting for parking, points of access, and building areas at all public recreation and park sites.
- Locate noisy park facilities and those which require intensive night lighting (such as outdoor basketball courts) at an appropriate distance from adjacent residential uses with visual barriers to stop glare and protect privacy.

**F-4. OBJECTIVE:** The city will continue to provide recreational and community services consistent with community needs and financial capabilities.

**F-4-a. Policy:** The City of Fresno will strive to maintain a unified park and recreation program, citywide in scope, to address the recreation needs of its residents, regardless of age, sex, income, cultural background, or disability.

**F-4-b. Policy:** The city will strengthen community services, and locate and design new facilities to support both the recreation program and the community service missions of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department.

**F-4-c. Policy:** "Basic" services for the operation of recreation facilities and for the provision of a broad program of activities and events should be primarily supported by the general fund.

**F-4-d. Policy:** The emphasis of city recreation programs will continue to be at the community/neighborhood level so that the services provided reflect the interests, needs, and socio-economic makeup of the population being served.

**F-4-e. Policy:** "Non-basic" recreation and community services may also be offered to the community. These would include:

- services which use consumable materials and supplies.
- services that require a facility with high capital, operating, or maintenance costs.
- services that require specialized instruction, materials, or equipment at additional costs.
- services that have a user group which can be reasonably expected to have the capability of supporting the direct costs of the program through their own resources.
- public property that is used for private economic gain.

**F-4-f. Policy:** The direct cost of "non-basic" services that fall into one or more of the categories listed shall be supported from user fees, grants, in-kind services, volunteers, and other non-general fund resources.

**F-5. OBJECTIVE:** The city will continue to coordinate with other agencies and organizations providing recreation facilities and services.

**F-5-a. Policy:** The city will coordinate the planning, acquisition, and development of recreational facilities in order to achieve the greatest public benefit from multiple use at the least cost.

**F-5-b. Policy:** Where a county-wide recreation need is demonstrated in an area adjacent to the city, cooperative programs should be encouraged on a cost-sharing basis. Joint Powers Agreements between agencies may be developed to provide for the acquisition, development, and/or operation of parks and/or recreational programs in this context.

**F-5-c. Policy:** Where feasible, school sites should be used for city recreation programs in order to provide a wider range of recreation programs and maximize the efficient use, maintenance, and supervision of public facilities. The city should continue to enter joint use agreements with school districts in the metropolitan area to expand recreational playfield programs.

**F-5-d. Policy:** The city should continue to obtain joint use agreements, where feasible, for use of Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) storm water drainage facilities in order to augment the amount of open space for recreation (see Table 7). Open space and recreational uses for storm drainage basins will be considered subordinate to runoff control and water resource management uses of basins. Proposals to use ponding basins (or parts of ponding basins) for recreation shall be reviewed by the city's Department of Public Utilities for input regarding the loss of capacity for groundwater recharge. Competing interests for park use and groundwater recharge use shall be presented to the city council and a recommendation forwarded to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

**F-5-e. Policy:** In order to maximize the area's supply of recreation activities and facilities, the city should explore cooperative agreements with the recreational sites and programs of non-profit organizations such as athletic leagues, churches, parochial and private schools, the Calwa Park District, the Clovis Memorial District, and other public agencies.

**F-5-f. Policy:** The city should coordinate with private interests such as commercial, industrial, and residential real estate developers to meet community needs while minimizing the cost of providing park and recreation facilities.

**F-5-g. Policy:** The city will continue to provide staff assistance, support, and information to the general public to facilitate the use of city recreation programs and actively support individuals and groups providing self-sponsored programs and services.

**F-6. OBJECTIVE:** The city will identify innovative approaches to programs, facilities, financing, and management of the parks and recreation system.

**F-6-a. Policy:** Seek revenue sources to supplement general fund support for basic park maintenance and basic recreational services.

- Aggressively seek state, federal, and local grants to improve city recreation services, and support the enactment of state and federal legislation that would establish or expand park and recreation acquisition and development funds.
- Actively seek individual, private, and corporate support for basic park maintenance and recreational services.

- Support establishment of public nonprofit corporations with the purpose of promoting and supporting city park and recreation services and facilities for the general public.
- Consider recreation districts, improvement districts, and maintenance districts (such as an expanded or modified Landscaping and Lighting District) as may be appropriate and necessary to meet the city's needs for capital facilities, operation, and maintenance of the park system.
- Consider new city financing mechanisms for park acquisition, maintenance, or operations that have not been met by the general fund, grants, donations, fees, or land dedications through such approaches as:
  - general obligation bonds.
  - revenue bonds.
  - Mello-Roos Community Facility District bonds.
  - assessments in existing or new special districts.
  - voter-approved tax measures.

**F-6-b. Policy:** Continue to promote the use of volunteers and community groups for the provision of recreational programs and services; and for the development, operation, and maintenance of parks.

**F-6-c. Policy:** Conduct economic development studies of the park and recreation system to determine the types and proper locations of potential revenue-generating services. Once these studies are complete, the city Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department should actively pursue concession and self-managed operations and fee adjustments where indicated.

**F-6-d. Policy:** Study opportunities for reorganization of current operations and assess opportunities to increase resources either through cost reduction or revenue production.

### **San Joaquin River Parkway Plan**

**F-7. OBJECTIVE:** Delineate the San Joaquin River Parkway and define its existing and future uses so Fresno-Madera area land use/development, infrastructure/public service, and resource conservation decisions can proceed with a clearer sense of ultimate uses of the regionally important assets represented by the San Joaquin River corridor.

**F-7-a. Policy:** The city will continue to support the concept of a regional river parkway system in the riverbottom, in coordination with Fresno County, Madera County, public interest groups, property owners, and the State of California.

**F-7-b. Policy:** The San Joaquin riverbottom area designated for multi-use open space area in the general plan land use section, together with adjacent designated open space areas, will comprise the important area of interest for parkway planning and development within the existing City of Fresno Sphere of Influence as well as within the proposed expanded Sphere of Influence of the 2025 General Plan including the North Growth Area.

**F-7-c. Policy:** The city will continue to use a consultative public planning process for the river corridor and parkway, involving the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the counties of Fresno and Madera, the State of California, land owners, and interested members of the community.

- Large general meetings and smaller working sessions will be used to maximize involvement of the river corridor's stakeholders.
- The process will be used to achieve the greatest degree of consensus possible in the community in an attempt to meet parkway, local jurisdiction, and landowner needs on mutually acceptable terms.
- The process will facilitate the city's commitment to address concerns of the general public regarding the natural resources of the river corridor.

**F-7-d. Policy:** The city may amend its service delivery plans to furnish public services (e.g., water), and may grant easements for extension of electricity and telephone utilities, to land in the riverbottom in order to support development of parkway facilities under the following conditions:

- the service is necessary for public health, safety, and welfare.
- service extension is done in a manner consistent with other objectives and policies applicable to the bluffs and riverbottom.

**F-7-e. Policy:** The city shall participate in the interagency planning process administered by the San Joaquin River Conservancy to identify the following:

- criteria for determining land acquisition priorities and the sequence of other implementing actions to be taken toward realization of the parkway.
- methods to unify diverse parkway elements into a functionally and visually integrated, manageable park system.
- establishment of a single overlay zone district, to be implemented by the underlying land use jurisdictions in order to facilitate the uniform application of the goals, objectives, and policies that relate to land use in the parkway.
- standards for parkway improvements/facilities, including signage.
- interim and permanent policies through which to operate, maintain, and manage the river parkway area to include service provision, managerial, and administrative responsibilities and law enforcement.

**F-7-f. Policy:** Funding needed to meet parkway objectives should involve all land use jurisdictions in the riverbottom--the City of Fresno, Fresno and Madera Counties, and the State of California.

- Funding decisions should be made both individually and collectively by the conservancy and its members, the state, private interests, nonprofit organizations, and by voters at the local and state level.
- The City of Fresno will work jointly with other jurisdictions, agencies, and parkway constituents to support state funds for the parkway from existing sources, a proposed new statewide general obligation bond issue for parks and wildlife, and appropriate new sources, should any be proposed.
- The local financing package for the parkway may include one or more of the following elements, which would require a nexus study to determine parkway benefits and allocate costs:
  - approval by the voters within the parkway service area of a measure providing for broadly based, locally generated matching funds such as a benefit assessment district or a local general obligation bond issue.
  - adoption of a uniform schedule of development impact fees for new development within a special benefit zone near the parkway.
  - adoption of a uniform fee or tax on sand and gravel extractions.
  - the conservancy and its member agencies should make the most effective use of limited public funds.
  - land acquired by the managing entity (or administered by it pursuant to an easement or similar agreement) should not be opened to public use until there is an adequate operating budget, pursuant to the policy adopted by the conservancy board.

**F-7-g. Policy:** The city will continue to support conservancy operations, when feasible, by assisting with:

- land use plans, zoning, and policies which maintain the riverbottom and bluffs multi-use open space land use designation, providing for agricultural, recreational (including golf courses), educational, habitat, mineral resource conservation, and mineral extraction uses appropriate in this area.
  - The staffing, training, and support of rangers and other personnel.
  - Contracting to supply and/or to obtain services for the parkway.
  - Land acquisitions.
  - Planning, construction, maintenance, and operation of parkway facilities, when feasible.
  - Adoption of regulations for parkway lands governing human conduct and protection of parkway resources and private property rights.

**F-7-h. Policy:** Land use authority is reserved to the state for land in its ownership, and to the underlying jurisdictions of the City of Fresno, Fresno County, and Madera County for land not in state ownership. The conservancy has authority to control the administration of land as to parkway or any adjacent land owned by the conservancy.

**F-7-i. Policy:** Local ordinances and land use policies that are adopted to support the parkway should enable landowners to coordinate their objectives with parkway objectives.

- Land use and management policies for the San Joaquin River and areas of the riverbottom included in the proposed parkway should enhance the attractiveness of the Fresno-Madera Metropolitan Area and enhance the quality of life of its residents.
- Ordinances and land use policies enacted for the parkway should ensure that landowners will assist in the realization of parkway objectives by siting private development projects so as to protect the riverbottom and its related wildlife corridors.
- Ordinances and land use policies enacted to support the parkway should be reviewed to ensure that creation of parkway amenities does not infringe upon or reduce existing valid entitlements.
- Existing development entitlements should be protected in a manner that retains property values while meeting parkway objectives.

**F-8. OBJECTIVE:** The city will continue to protect and enhance the San Joaquin River corridor's unique resources, will continue to maintain standards to protect public health and safety in the river corridor, and will provide for development of substantial recreational opportunities for all segments of the rapidly-growing population of the Fresno-Madera region by preserving open space on the bluffs and riverbottom while allowing appropriate recreational development.

**F-8-a. Policy:** The State Lands Commission's (SLC) Administrative Maps of the San Joaquin River shall be used to determine the location of land in sovereign state ownership and the location of public trust property interests in the riverbottom until more precise and final determinations may be made through litigation or through agreements between upland property owners and the state.

- Before the city accepts any development or permit application for a public or private project proposed on parcels within, or adjacent to, state sovereign land and public trust easement area outlined in the Administrative Maps of the San Joaquin River, the applicant shall forward the proposed project to the State Lands Commission for review and comment. The SLC determination letter stating whether the project area encroaches onto state sovereign land and/or the public trust easement must be included as part of any development or permit

application submitted to the city. It is the applicant's burden to establish that there is no encroachment. A permit application cannot be deemed complete for filing purposes until this SLC determination has been submitted to the city.

- When proposed public and private projects involve land where the owner is disputing the state's ownership and/or the public trust interest, the dispute shall be settled (resolved) before the city approves any subdivision, entitlement, and before issuance of grading or other ministerial permits affecting the area subject to the dispute. Property owners applying for permits shall show actual ownership of land beyond an assessor's parcel map or recorded deed, through provision or demonstration of a policy of title insurance for the land which (1) ensures the value and full extent of the land involved; and (2) does not exclude, waive, except, or reduce coverage for sovereign claims of the state or other public ownership claims relating to navigable waters.

**F-8-b. Policy:** Existing undeveloped areas of the riverbottom shall remain nonurbanized.

- Maintain the multi-use open space land use designation in the riverbottom and on the edge and face of the bluffs.
- Preserve and enhance the remaining riparian areas defined by the California Department of Fish and Game as "riparian" in the San Joaquin Riverbottom by rezoning and/or maintaining such areas (in)to an "AE-20/cz" (Exclusive Twenty-Acre Agricultural District/conditional zoning to limit home construction to no more than one dwelling unit per existing agricultural parcel); or "O" Open Conservation District zoning; or a new zone district developed to implement the area's multi-use open space land use designation and to minimize residential construction (limiting it to no more than one dwelling unit per existing parcel). Prohibit new residential construction when floodway preservation, safety, health, or other development constraints are present that would preclude residential construction on an existing parcel.
- In conjunction with other land use jurisdictions along the river corridor, consider creating a new or modified open space zone district applicable to the San Joaquin River environs, with provisions that would allow and support the multiple open space uses consistent with the multi-use open space plan designation in this area, and to minimize or prohibit new residential construction.

**F-8-c. Policy:** Preserve the river bluffs as a unique geological feature in the San Joaquin Valley.

- Maintain and enforce the requirements of the "BP" Bluff Preservation Overlay Zone District.
- Maintain the bluff area building setback required in the General Plan Safety Element.



**F-9. OBJECTIVE:** Recreational elements of the proposed parkway will provide accessible outdoor recreation, while preserving the unique resources of the river corridor and respecting private property rights.

**F-9-a. Policy:** Recreational objectives should be balanced within the overall management objectives for the parkway. Recreational activities will be designed and managed to:

- preserve sensitive, important habitat, plants, and wildlife.
- protect cultural resources, including archaeological and Native American religious sites.
- provide recreational and educational opportunities to all segments of the population.
- reduce or eliminate undesirable activities such as trespassing on private lands.

**F-9-b. Policy:** "Recreational areas" of the parkway proper will be defined as areas that are managed predominantly for human activities.

- Improvements should be kept to the minimum needed to serve the visiting public and to meet sanitation, security, and safety needs.
- Types of activities that ultimately could be accommodated at parkway recreational areas include hiking/jogging; canoeing/kayaking; bicycling; fishing; horseback riding; nature observation/study; outdoor education/interpretative programs; picnicking; swimming; informal play at playgrounds and on turf areas; golfing; and camping (tents, trailers, and RVs) in environmentally resilient areas with adequate services such as vault toilets and drinking water.
- Consistent standards will be established to unify elements of the parkway into a recognizable unit and to coordinate improvements with other parkway objectives (such as minimizing impacts on wildlife). These standards should cover all aspects of recreational facility construction/improvement, including:
  - engineering.
  - design.
  - fencing.
  - signage.
  - drainage controls and treatment of runoff.
  - lighting.
  - landscaping.
- Landscapes (existing or restored) should feature native vegetation.
- Irrigated turf will be provided only to the extent needed to accommodate intensive activities that require an improved surface (such as ball fields).

- Commercial activities to serve visitors' parkway-related needs (such as camping and fishing supplies; books, maps, and guides) may be provided in, or adjacent to, intensive recreational areas under special use permits when such activities are consistent with other objectives and policies applicable to the riverbottom and parkway.

**F-9-c. Policy:** Use the most recently adopted California Department of Water Resources and US Army Corps of Engineers' 100-year flood data to guide the siting of parkway facilities.

- Do not construct any parkway facilities that would sustain more than slight damage from inundation in any area where there is a potential flood risk.
- Engineer parkway trails, service roads, and bridges to avoid and minimize significant flood damage.

**F-9-d. Policy:** Recreational opportunities should be provided at levels compatible with the environmental sensitivity, adjacent uses, and aesthetic setting of a parkway locale.

- Existing publicly owned land and water areas at various locations fronting on, or close to, the river between Friant Dam and Highway 99 shall be considered as potential elements of the San Joaquin River Parkway concept.
- Assist the community in achieving its desired recreational balance by rehabilitating and improving its recreational assets.
- Where practical, new recreational facilities should be sited within, adjacent to, and near existing recreation facilities in the river corridor, rather than creating new foci of intensive recreation facilities in the river corridor.
- Through purchase, easements, and other mutually satisfactory transactions, acquire land for the expansion of existing parks and recreation areas without compromising significant habitat values.
- The city will support the expansion of the Woodward Regional Park into the riverbottom.

**F-10. OBJECTIVE:** Responsible agencies should locate and design recreational facilities in the riverbottom and bluff areas to minimize impacts on the area's unique and irreplaceable natural habitats and historic resources (including archaeological sites).

**F-10-a. Policy:** The San Joaquin River Parkway should provide for a harmonious combination of mainly low-impact recreational uses and habitat protection. Recreational development shall accommodate and protect a continuous riparian wildlife corridor and enclaves of wildlife habitat throughout the length of the proposed parkway.

- Large-scale, high-intensity use and facilities such as waterslides, amusement parks, or any recreational pursuit involving motor vehicles or motorized watercraft (other than small electric trolling motors on fishing boats) are not compatible with the parkway; nor are they compatible with uses currently permitted on the riverbottom.
- In, and abutting, natural reserve areas and the wildlife corridor, public use and recreational activities will be limited to low-impact, non-intensive uses and a transient presence, such as footpaths, nature observation and canoeing. Alignments for the full multi-purpose trail should skirt these areas.
- Active recreational uses such as equestrian facilities, campgrounds, picnic areas, playgrounds and turf areas for informal play, the main multipurpose trail, swimming areas, and support facilities (such as trailheads and staging areas, service roads, concessions, and rest rooms) shall be sited away from the most sensitive habitat areas.
- Areas for more intensive recreational uses should be appropriate to the environmental setting and surroundings.
- Uses involving spectator events or other large assemblages of people should not be permitted on private property adjacent to the parkway. These uses should be limited to developed high-level recreation areas, with use levels monitored to assure that the carrying capacity of site facilities is not exceeded.
- Minimize potential impacts to sensitive resources by concentrating proposed active recreation facilities in and near existing parks and recreation areas whenever feasible and appropriate.
- Facilities for intensive recreational activities and related uses will be located as far from the river channel as possible. In general, only uses that are river-dependent (such as canoeing, fishing, and nature observation) will be located on the river.
- Sensitive habitat areas adjoining or in recreation areas will be clearly demarcated, and access into these areas will be managed.
- Multi-purpose trail alignments should skirt wildlife habitat areas and should incorporate sufficient buffering.
- Pets that could harass or prey on wildlife should be excluded from the parkway or confined/restrained by means of a mandatory leash regulation.

**F-10-b. Policy:** Recreational development in the parkway area will preserve, manage, and where possible, restore irreplaceable natural and cultural resources in the riverbottom to meet current and future recreational and educational needs.

- Private recreation facilities will continue to play a role along the parkway. Privately operated golf courses, beach clubs, fishing areas, equestrian clubs, and other recreational facilities will help meet the recreational needs of the Fresno-Madera community. In most cases these operations would be compatible with the goals of the parkway, but they need to conform to buffer requirements for the wildlife

corridor and wildlife reserves and to meet other standards for recreational areas.

- Operational statements for recreational uses shall detail how the proposed activities and visitors will be managed to minimize conflicts with, and impacts on, environmentally and archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Site-specific protections will be implemented through development entitlements and/or permit conditions imposed on parkway area projects and adjacent projects which could demonstrably affect the parkway's sensitive habitat areas.
- Measures such as the following will be used to reduce impacts associated with recreational facilities:
  - cluster proposed recreational facilities away from archaeological sites and the most sensitive habitat areas.
  - use landscaped buffers to separate active recreational use sites and other intensive human activities from wildlife habitat.
  - allow recreational facilities to share service/support facilities.
  - whenever possible, use existing adequate, appropriate routes to access recreational facilities.
  - except for necessary turfed areas, appropriate native plant species will be required for landscaping, landscape buffers, and vegetation restoration programs in the river corridor.

**F-10-c. Policy:** The city will advocate that recreational activities and use levels be monitored and managed by responsible agencies to ensure that facilities and the river environs can handle demands imposed by recreational uses.

- Utilize personnel trained in environmental surveying to periodically evaluate recreational uses and facilities that could have undesirable impacts on the river and its related sensitive areas.
- If negative impacts are demonstrated, some or all of the following measures need to be implemented:
  - change methods of operation and/or facilities maintenance.
  - institute more intensive and effective supervision and management of visitors.
  - require that sensitive habitat be accessed only by escorted tours.
  - limit or curtail hours of operation and/or visitor numbers.
  - discontinue one or more recreational activities at the location.
  - institute a permit system for certain activities.
  - institute user fees, or increase fees, for the recreational activity or facility causing impacts (to pay for mitigative measures).
  - redesign the recreational site and/or its buffering area.
  - close or relocate all or part of the recreational site.

**F-11. OBJECTIVE:** Responsible agencies should minimize impacts from parkway recreational facilities and uses upon adjacent private property.

**F-11-a. Policy:** Recreational activity sites for the parkway should be chosen, developed, and managed so as to prevent and control negative impacts on adjacent private property.

- Locate, design, and improve recreational facilities to minimize noise, visual contact, trespass, and crime on adjacent private property.
- Intensive recreational activity sites will be distanced from private residences whenever possible. These facilities should be set back from private dwellings at least 150 feet with a buffer zone planted with screening vegetation where possible.
- Operational statements for recreational uses shall detail how the proposed activities and visitors will be managed to minimize conflicts with, and impacts upon, private land owners.
- Private property impacts of recreational uses should be monitored by maintaining a centralized database of complaints received from nearby land owners. In conjunction with other agencies, the city should routinely review this file to determine which complaints represent serious problems or patterns of disturbances that need prompt remedial action.
- If a recreational facility or use has demonstrably negative impacts on nearby private property, some or all of the following measures should be implemented to prevent the situation from continuing or worsening:
  - increase maintenance at the facility.
  - change methods of operation or the type of recreational uses allowed at the site.
  - discontinue one or more recreational activities at the location.
  - institute more intensive and effective supervision and management of visitors.
  - limit or curtail hours of operation and/or visitor numbers.
  - institute a permit system for certain activities.
  - institute user fees, or increase fees, for the recreational activity or facility causing impacts (to pay for mitigative measures).
  - redesign the recreational site, its access control structures, and/or its buffering area.
  - close or relocate all or part of the recreational site.

**F-11-b. Policy:** Measures need to be taken to protect agricultural operations (crops, livestock, orchards, and ornamental trees) in and near the parkway.

**F-11-c. Policy:** Parkway improvements, operations, and management must respect and preserve demonstrated water rights, legislated and contractual uses of river water, and the structures and facilities associated with those rights and uses.

**F-12. OBJECTIVE:** Sufficient and consistent delivery of law enforcement and life safety services are important for the parkway, since this large public access area will serve over 1.5 million persons in the Fresno-Madera Area. Responsible agencies must prevent and control undesirable activities, unlawful conduct, trespass on private lands, and human impacts on sensitive areas in the parkway by appropriate management of facilities and recreational uses. The highest priority of parkway personnel will be the protection of public safety.

**F-12-a. Policy:** Approval of new recreational uses shall be conditioned upon the implementation of measures to minimize undesirable activities. These measures may include:

- limiting access through barriers and hours of operation.
- restrictions on alcohol sales, use, or possession.
- signage.
- security patrols.
- supervision of visitors.
- provisions for enforcement of recreational facility rules.

**F-12-b. Policy:** In order to reduce opportunities for persons to engage in undesirable conduct in the parkway and its immediate vicinity, riverbottom access may be limited:

- points of controlled, gated access may be instituted, with or without the payment of an access or day use fee.
- cooperation of private parties having legal control of riverbottom access shall be sought in this effort.

**F-12-c. Policy:** Current law enforcement response time should be improved in the riverbottom.

- Coordination and dispatch of law enforcement services should be enhanced.
- To serve future increases in the river parkway area, better access should be provided for police, fire, and emergency medical vehicles.

**F-12-d. Policy:** In conjunction with other parkway managing entities, the city will consider one or more of the following methods to control unlawful and undesirable activities in the riverbottom:

- appropriate signage at points of access and throughout the parkway, listing permitted and prohibited activities.
- the use of locked gates to control/limit access.
- regular maintenance and cleaning of facilities, since vandalism is less likely to occur when a high level of maintenance is visible.

- an adequate number and distribution of emergency-only telephones and conventional coin-activated public telephones.
- a "park watch" program to involve visitors, staff, and nearby residents to be alert and to report suspicious activities.
- a regular patrol presence, using public or private trained personnel.
- a volunteer program to supplement the patrolling, supervision, and maintenance of the parkway.

**F-13. OBJECTIVE:** Parkway facilities and activities shall be compatible with surface mining activities in the riverbottom.

**F-13-a. Policy:** Proposed recreational uses and areas shall, where desirable and feasible, capitalize on opportunities associated with the reclamation of existing and future sand and gravel operations. Active, intensive recreational uses may be located in reclaimed mineral extraction sites in those areas that are not designated for wildlife habitat restoration.

**F-13-b. Policy:** In most cases, public access and proposed recreational or outdoor education uses and facilities shall not be developed in areas designated as having regionally significant mineral deposits until after resource extraction has taken place in these locations as shown on Exhibit 10.

**F-13-c. Policy:** When parkway facilities or uses are sited in unmined areas having regionally significant mining deposits, alternate locations for parkway recreational uses shall be identified at the time of detailed site planning so that those uses can be relocated and safely continued when, and if, mineral extraction takes place. Parkway structures with long economic life (e.g., restrooms) should be sited where they will not preclude or interfere with future mining operations in these designated areas. Temporary facilities that do not represent a significant economic commitment and that can be readily relocated (e.g., unpaved trails) may be constructed as needed in unopened high-quality Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) areas (see Exhibit 10).

**F-13-d. Policy:** Where developed permanent facilities now exist in public recreation areas, harvesting of sand and gravel resources should only occur in areas where facilities are relocatable (such as parking lots) or where facility replacement is desirable for parkway purposes.

**F-13-e. Policy:** Recreational facilities shall be located and designed to minimize impacts on active mineral extraction and processing sites.

- Recreational facilities shall be separated from active mineral extraction operations by at least 300 feet.
- No intensive public use areas shall be sited near mineral processing facilities.

- Effective barriers (fencing, as required by the city's surface mining ordinance) shall be used to prevent trespass onto the mineral extraction or processing site. Temporary berms, or other measures, shall be used wherever feasible to visually separate public access trails and recreational areas from mining and related activities.
- Where trails must unavoidably cross haul routes, consideration shall be given to segregating trail and mining uses by means of:
  - bridges or other overcrossings to physically separate trail and haul routes.
  - trail use may be restricted to hours when mining is not active.

**F-14. OBJECTIVE:** The San Joaquin River Parkway Trail network will be a multipurpose recreational trail system designed to serve the following purposes:

- to provide for substantial public access to the river, and to scenic vistas on the bluffs above the river, while minimizing intrusion on private property.
- to provide transportation routes linking all types of recreational areas in the parkway.
- to provide a regional, integrated recreation system for pedestrian, equestrian, and nonmotorized wheeled activities.

**F-14-a. Policy:** A continuous, multipurpose San Joaquin River trail will connect recreation areas (including canoe put-in/take-out and rest areas) and will provide overlooks of the riverbottom and access to the river and natural reserves in some places. When completed, there will be a continuous main multipurpose trail extending from Millerton Lake State Recreation Area at least as far west as Highway 99.

- The western terminus of the river's main multipurpose trail is currently proposed as a loop connecting both sides of the river. This loop would link Riverside Golf Course on the Fresno side with the PG&E and day use area on the Madera side. River crossings for this loop could be provided by improving the old sand and gravel haul route bridge downstream of Highway 99 and construction of a trail bridge upstream of the highway.
- Linkages (trail and/or canoe facilities) may be constructed farther west, between State Highways 99 and 145, if warranted by the following conditions:
  - an expressed desire on the part of Fresno County and/or Madera County to extend the trail to link existing or planned recreational areas west of Highway 99.
  - increased recreational use of this part of the river.
  - future changes in land use patterns along this section of the river that are determined to create the need for additional recreational opportunities.



- identified needs for facilities and access to better control undesirable activities on this part of the river.

**F-14-b. Policy:** A hierarchy of trails and bikeways in the parkway will provide a variety of recreational opportunities for hikers, joggers, walkers, bicyclists, persons in wheelchairs, and equestrians.

**F-14-c. Policy:** The City of Fresno will continue to work toward the adoption of official plan lines for new segments of the San Joaquin River Trails and will actively pursue completion of these segments to ensure that adequate and appropriate public access to the San Joaquin River and the parkway is provided.

**F-14-d. Policy:** The San Joaquin River Conservancy and local governments will need to develop a logical sequence of construction phases for trail and bikeway segments in order to maximize the utility of the trail network as it emerges over time.

**F-14-e. Policy:** Planning of trail alignments should be sensitive to the following concerns:

- utilization of suitable existing road grades, access easements, and trails.
- potential for a route to be useful for transportation purposes as well as recreation.
- potential for a route to provide feeder trail connections.
- avoidance of existing residences, agricultural operations, and mineral extraction operations (including haul roads).
- avoidance of safety hazards.
- avoidance of steep grades.
- avoidance of routes that would require cutting into erodible soils (such as bluff strata).
- avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas, such as critical habitat for rare, threatened or endangered animal and plant species.
- minimizing the extent that trails traverse natural reserves.

**F-14-f. Policy:** The parkway trail network will have improvement standards to ensure durability, safety, and utility for intended purposes.

- Trail corridors should be of sufficient width to provide a scenic environment for trail users and to minimize impacts of trail use on adjacent land uses and natural resources. Where feasible, a minimum width of 100 feet should be acquired for trail corridors.
- Trails should be sited at least 300 feet from the edge of active mining operations, and should be separated by physical barriers (such as fencing) and visual barriers (such as landscaping).

- Trails and related facilities should be closed, redesigned, or relocated when problems are documented (e.g., repeated inappropriate behavior, habitat disturbance, or safety violations), and it is not feasible to control or prevent these problems by alternative measures.
- Temporary trail closures may be necessary seasonally or at other times because of conditions such as flood hazard, agricultural spraying, or the presence of sensitive wildlife. Trail segments that are subject to these closures shall be equipped with barrier structures (e.g., gates) and signage.
- Existing vegetation, or new plantings of suitable native plants, shall be used as a buffer to screen the trail pathway and adjacent land uses or sensitive habitat areas.
- Widths and construction methods of internal parkway trails will vary with the type of recreational area being accessed and potential use levels.
- Heavily traveled and main access segments of multipurpose trails will be durable enough for use by patrol, maintenance, fire suppression, and rescue vehicles. These segments should have at least an 8-foot width of all-weather surfacing, with the trail and its auxiliary structures (culverts, bridges) engineered to support a 20-ton wheel load.
- Other segments of the trail network may be surfaced with impervious asphalt or concrete, or with granular permeable materials (such as gravel or quarry fines), depending on the level of use/access for that trail segment, the likelihood of soil erosion, the water content and drainage characteristics of the soil substrate, and the need for dust control.
- Multipurpose trails should be wide enough to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle uses safely. The suggested minimum trail width for these dual uses is 12 feet.
- Where feasible, multipurpose trails will have separate, parallel pathways: a firm (paved) surface up to 12 feet wide for cyclists, persons in wheelchairs, and other users who need or prefer a hard surface; and soft (granular material) surfaces 8 or more feet wide for hikers, joggers, and equestrian users.
- Bike components of the multipurpose trail network will be mapped and marked to serve a wide variety of bicyclists in and around the parkway.
  - To accommodate children and families: scenic, short loops under 10 miles in length with little competing traffic.
  - To accommodate recreational and touring bicyclists: longer scenic routes (20 to 50 miles) which may be more heavily traveled and may incorporate trail system bike paths and bikeways (marked bike lanes on public streets).
  - To accommodate fitness and commuter bicyclists: more efficient, higher-speed routes with less competing traffic. Where practical, the multipurpose river parkway trail will be linked to non-parkway trails and bikeways.

- Where possible, separate trails will be constructed for equestrian use. Equestrian trails will avoid sensitive habitat areas; wetlands prone to churning, erosion or compaction from horses' hooves; and areas being revegetated.
- In areas where a separate equestrian trail is not provided, additional granular-surfaced shoulder width will be provided along multipurpose trails to accommodate horseback riders. When possible, physical barriers such as landscaping will be used to separate these equestrian paths from pedestrian/bicycle paths.
- In areas where there is not sufficient width to construct a standard multipurpose trail width (e.g., along berms; tracks where native vegetation should not be disturbed), trail uses can still occur by imposing controls on trail use. Posting of signage and enforcement should be used to make these special regulations more effective. These regulations may include speed limits for bicyclists and equestrians; a requirement that bicyclists stop and dismount in the vicinity of horseback riders; and other similar safety measures.
- Avoid trail alignments that cross active mining operation haul routes. If crossings of haul routes are necessary, use grade separations where feasible.
- Internal ("side") trails, consisting of loops of varying lengths, will be routed off the main multipurpose alignment to pass through recreational areas, providing access and activity opportunities.
- In order to permit only pedestrian access to wildlife reserves and fishing areas, trails in these locations will be provided by low-impact footpaths. These paths can be as narrow as two feet and should be surfaced with granular material or native soil.

**F-15. OBJECTIVE:** Interlink city and San Joaquin River Parkway trail networks to provide alternatives to the automobile for travel to, and within, the parkway, serving dual recreational and transportation purposes.

**F-15-a. Policy:** The parkway trail network will be connected to other trails in the vicinity, in order to create a trail system that offers a variety of different route combinations and enhances public access to the parkway.

**F-15-b. Policy:** Parkway trails should be planned to anticipate future connecting trails such as those proposed in the City of Fresno Multi-Purpose Trails Plan Map (Exhibit 9). City and county trails plans identify several trail alignments that would serve as potential feeder trails:

- Milburn Avenue.
- North Van Ness Avenue/Boy Scout Road.
- Audubon Drive/Palm/Harrison.
- Woodward Park and Woodward Bluff Trail.
- Friant Expressway/Friant Road/Audubon Drive/North Fresno Street.
- East Copper Avenue.
- North Willow Avenue.

**F-15-c. Policy:** Public transit should be planned to provide access to trailheads and parkway staging areas.

**F-15-d. Policy:** Vehicle parking and access to trails will be provided at staging areas. Most staging areas will be within the parkway's recreation areas. Staging areas should consist of:

- paved parking.
- vehicle barriers and/or gates providing access for trail users while barring unauthorized vehicle access.
- informational and interpretive signs.
- toilets.
- drinking water.
- telephones for reporting emergencies.

**F-15-e. Policy:** Staging areas that serve equestrian trails should provide:

- drive-through trailer parking.
- watering troughs.
- hitching rails/posts.

**F-16. OBJECTIVE:** The parkway will provide new opportunities for equestrian use, which will require special facilities and management.

**F-16-a. Policy:** Equestrian facilities in, and ancillary to, the parkway may be on suitable private property or may be provided through concession operations at suitable locations on public land.

**F-16-b. Policy:** Equestrian facilities in parkway areas may include, where suitable:

- boarding stables/pastures.
- storage for feed and tack.
- areas for riding lessons and training.
- stock trailer parking.

**F-16-c. Policy:** Equestrian facilities should not be sited in the following locations:

- sensitive habitat areas.
- wetlands and other areas where the soil is prone to churning, erosion or compaction from horses' hooves.
- areas being revegetated.
- areas where the river or the aquifer could become contaminated with animal wastes or waste byproducts.

**F-16-d. Policy:** Maintenance of equestrian facility grounds on the parkway should stress control of introduced exotic plant species.

**F-16-e. Policy:** Street access to the existing "Ram Tap" equestrian facility on the PG&E property should be improved via Herndon Avenue. This facility should be also be augmented with a staging area and trailhead designed to meet the needs of equestrian trail users.

**F-17. OBJECTIVE:** Since the San Joaquin River is suitable for small human-powered recreational watercraft, and the California Department of Boating and Waterways supports this type of recreational boating uses on the river, new and enhanced opportunities will be provided for canoeing on the San Joaquin River.

**F-17-a. Policy:** It shall be recognized that the river itself serves as a public "canoe trail" for nonmotorized boating.

**F-17-b. Policy:** Canoe launching and rest areas will be sited at various locations to create additional opportunities for canoe and float trips of various lengths.

- Access points for canoe put-in/take-out are planned for several locations along the parkway, primarily within designated recreation areas.
- Put-in/take-out points and rest areas should be situated for canoe trips of various lengths, from two- to three-hour trips to full day trips.
- Put-in/take-out areas will consist of:
  - vehicle parking and a canoe drop-off point convenient to the river.
  - sanitation facilities, including vault toilets and trash receptacles.
  - drinking water.
  - a telephone for emergency use.
  - signage with a map of the river, showing locations of put-in/take-out points and rest areas.
  - signage with canoeing safety information and regulations.
- Rest areas will be provided at selected sites so that canoeists can pause enroute without trespassing on private land. Access for canoe put-in/take-out will not be provided at rest areas, but these areas will be accessible by patrol, maintenance/servicing, and rescue vehicles. Improvements for canoe rest areas will consist of:
  - sanitation facilities, including vault toilets and trash receptacles.
  - picnic tables.
  - a telephone for emergency use.

**F-17-c. Policy:** Canoeing activities shall be managed to support the multiple objectives of the river corridor.

- It is sometimes impossible to buffer sensitive wildlife from canoe traffic. Therefore, activities such as commercial canoe rentals shall not be permitted when and where such activities would create unacceptable levels of human presence in the vicinity of nesting, denning, roosting, or foraging sites of sensitive species.
- Because canoeing is unsafe during times of high water releases from Friant Dam, local jurisdictions and the parkway managing entity will adopt such regulations and policies as may be necessary to enforce periodic bans on this activity. Minimum suggested measures include closure of canoe put-in/take-out areas and posting of parkway entrances with a "no canoeing/ no kayaking" advisory.
- Operators of commercial canoe rental or canoe trip businesses that propose to use the river shall be required to inform clients regarding safety, parkway regulations, and the protection of sensitive wildlife species encountered along the river.

**F-18. OBJECTIVE:** Capitalize on the river parkway's unique opportunities for outdoor education, to reach all segments of the community with a variety of programs.

**F-18-a. Policy:** Educational programs can include:

- self-guided brochure tours.
- theme trails on nature, history, agriculture, etc.
- interpretive signs at points of interest.
- museum/visitor center exhibits.
- interpretive walks, bicycle rides, and canoe trips conducted by trained staff or volunteers.
- programs for school groups, including outdoor education and outdoor classroom programs.
- scientific research programs.

**F-18-b. Policy:** Use educational and interpretive curricula and materials that will reach all segments of the community. Programs developed by volunteers, schools, and nonprofit organizations in the area are expected to form the parkway's core educational material.

**F-18-c. Policy:** Educational and interpretive programs should be conducted as near as is feasible to the site where the subject matter is located, without disturbing sensitive habitats or historical material.

**F-18-d. Policy:** Proposed parkway facilities and features should be evaluated from the perspective of their potential suitability for educational or interpretive uses.

**F-18-e. Policy:** Educational programs in the parkway can and should be conducted by a variety of organizations. These can include:

- public, parochial, and private educational institutions.
- history, art, mining, and environmental groups.
- park and recreational organizations.
- resource management agencies.
- the conservancy and its member agencies/organizations; in addition to having its own programs, the conservancy should seek cooperative relationships with the other organizations to maximize the variety and amount of educational programs using the parkway.

## **G. RESOURCE CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

### **Challenges**

The California Government Code requires that general plans address the conservation of natural resources and energy. The 2025 General Plan Resource Conservation Element is important because long-term development potential of Fresno depends heavily on the quality, quantity, and cost-effective availability of resources (such as water and energy) to support the expected population growth and development. Resource management also has major implications for public health and safety, and resources are intrinsic to maintaining the city's aesthetics, heritage, and its overall attractiveness. Collectively, these issues are perceived as "quality of life" and are major determinants of industries' and individuals' willingness to locate in and invest in the community. For these reasons, a strong commitment to resource protection is needed for Fresno's long-term economic stability and preservation of its property values.

### **Direction**

This section of the Plan Elements chapter of the general plan constitutes the Natural Resource Conservation Element (and includes the Energy Conservation Element). It addresses the following topic areas:

**1. Air Quality.** Fresno lies in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, a region with climate and topography that is predisposed to poor air quality. This region has had longstanding air quality problems and has chronically failed to attain national and state clean air standards for ozone (oxidants) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). The Fresno [-Clovis] Urbanized Area has also had intermittent, localized exceedances of carbon monoxide (CO) standards. Air quality must be improved and protected to assure that our atmosphere is clean and healthful, and to avoid sanctions for non-attainment. This Resource Conservation Element addresses issues not covered by other general plan elements (Regional Cooperation, Urban Form, Public Facilities, Open Space/Recreation) which provide direction on clean air-oriented land use, infrastructure development, and alternative transportation.